

Magistrate Questions Constitutionality of Law Which Prevents Boxing Bouts Where Admission Fee Is Charged

BOXING PROMOTERS FREED BY COURT

Membership Plan Upheld by Magistrate Corrigin in New Polo A. A. Case.

The club membership plan yesterday gained a notable victory in the Harlem Court when Magistrate Joseph E. Corrigin dismissed charges against seven men charged with violating section 1110 of the penal law, which makes it a misdemeanor to hold boxing matches where admission fees are charged.

Two boxers who appeared in the ring of the Polo A. A. C. were held for Special Sessions, but Magistrate Corrigin declared it was not the duty of the police to prevent boxing matches where admission fees are charged.

By far the most significant utterance of the Magistrate was that in his opinion the law was unconstitutional.

He held that it would be a legitimate club which in his opinion was not a violation of the law.

In dismissing the complaints against all seven of the two boxers, the Magistrate said there was no evidence to show that any one but the two boxers participated in the contest.

The case of the Polo A. A. C. will come up before Magistrate Corrigin in the Washington Heights Court today.

Fourteen members of the club have been named to appear and testify. The case of the Polo A. A. C. has turned over to the police to prove that it is a membership organization and not a sporting club.

The officials of the club point to a ruling by the Attorney-General of the State in support of their contention that a private club is not a violation of the law.

The club is not a violation of the law, and the case will be heard in the Washington Heights Court today.

RAISE \$7,000 FOR SMOKE. Boxing Benefit Great Aid to Soldiers and Sailors.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—More than \$7,000 was raised here tonight at the Philadelphia boxing benefit for the soldiers and sailors.

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GOV. HARDING AT GOTCH'S FUNERAL

Thousands Join in Tribute to Memory of Wrestler.

HUMPHREY, Pa., Dec. 19.—Humboldt turned from his hotel room today to place in Union Cemetery the body of Frank A. Gotch, the man whose wrestling fame brought public attention to this little city.

Business paused and the school Gotch attended as a boy remained closed as the city and countryside joined in tribute to the retired world's champion wrestler who died at his home here last Sunday after a protracted illness.

Gov. W. L. Harding was among the hundreds of personal friends of the late champion who joined the funeral services in the Congregational Church.

The Rev. Alexander Bennett of Salina, Kan., formerly in charge of the Congregational Church here and a personal friend of Gotch, delivered the funeral oration. The Masonic order had charge of the funeral.

More than 250 persons came from Fort Dodge, La., aboard a special train, and nearly a hundred others were on the special train from Chicago.

Gotch was a wrestling champion from Des Moines. Several thousand persons stood outside the church during the services, unable to gain entrance.

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LEWIS'S HEAD HOLD CAUSES DRINK SCENE

Drank Starts Donnybrook in Grapple With "Strangler," but Is Thrown.

By GEORGE B. UNDERWOOD.

Ed "Strangler" Lewis may not be the undisputed champion wrestler of America, but in the Lexington Opera House last night he showed the mettle of one, for he conquered his foe. Sometimes that is the most soul stirring test of all.

Roughed all over the stage, hurled bodily into the scenes and against the press table with some breaking force, thrown back and almost over the footlights themselves, straggled, gouged and eluded by Tommy Drank, the herculean Hollander, who in his mad frenzy broke almost every rule of wrestling.

Lewis, who is a wrestler of the first class, was not in the least daunted by the onslaught of the Hollander. He displayed something of the glacial's terrible power when he finally secured his deadly head hold and slowly but surely forced Drank to the pit bulling the head hold seemed to be Lewis's for when the Strangler once secured it and exerted all his professional skill to keep it, it was impossible for an opponent to withstand it.

Head Hold Starts Trouble.

It was Lewis's use of the deadly head hold that accounted for all the trouble that occurred last night. The wrestling engaged in the tournament broke out in an open rebellion against it and threatened the management that they would withdraw unless the hold was barred.

The trouble started last night in Lewis's dressing room when Vladimir Zbyzsko, a wrestler of the first class, was in the room. Lewis's manager, lost his head and started to pummel him. Before the men could be separated Zbyzsko had given Lewis a hard beating.

Lewis was not in the room at the time. When word was brought to him on the stage he rushed up stairs to the dressing room. He found the men in a state of confusion. He tried to break up the fight, but he was not successful.

Several of the attendants grabbed him and finally he was restrained.

In the meantime Tommy Drank, who had been in the room, was in a state of confusion. He tried to break up the fight, but he was not successful.

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American League Fielding Averages

CLUB FIELDING.

Games, P.O. A. E. P. C.

Boston, 154 2960 232 10 257

Chicago, 154 2960 232 10 257

New York, 154 2960 232 10 257

Philadelphia, 154 2960 232 10 257

Pittsburgh, 154 2960 232 10 257

St. Louis, 154 2960 232 10 257

Washington, 154 2960 232 10 257

St. Paul, 154 2960 232 10 257

Minneapolis, 154 2960 232 10 257

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Portland, 154 2960 232 10 257

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FIELDING LAURELS GO TO FRANK BAKER

Leads American League's Third Basemen With an Average of .919.

By FREDERICK G. LEB.

Despite the fact that John Franklin Baker, third baseman of the Yankees, generally is supposed to have gone back a lot in fielding, Frank is one of the few Yankees who snatched any honors out of the American League fielding world.

Frank is held by Hugo Weaver of the White Sox for the leadership among the regular third basemen, both having an average of .949. However, Baker played in 146 games at third base, against 107 for Weaver.

The figures also would belie the statement that Baker does not cover the amount of ground that he should. He is credited with fifty-six more than any other third baseman in the league. He took 202 put outs.

Baker had 202 put outs. He took 202 put outs. He took 202 put outs.

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HIGH LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN ALL SPHERES OF SPORTS

By DANIEL.

JESS WILLARD has offered to meet the best available challenger for the heavyweight title, all the receipts to go to the Red Cross.

Fulton, generally recognized as the most formidable of the champion's rivals, has accepted the offer. It remains only to designate the time, place, scheduled length and referee of their meeting. All other boxers who come forward with expressions of willingness to take Willard at his word know they haven't a chance except for a little newspaper space.

Some time ago Walter Monahan, who acted as Willard's sparring partner on the champion's circus tour, declared that stories of Jess's having gone back were not based on fact. Monahan asserted that Willard had improved a great deal and that he could get into condition for the defense of his title in less than a month. He added that years about Willard's having taken on eighty pounds of excess baggage also were not true. If Monahan is correct we do not believe that Willard will be in any great danger of losing his title to Fulton. It is rather a discouraging state of affairs to be forced to admit that Fulton stands out as the most likely to give Willard a fair argument. We shall never forget Fulton's wretched conduct in the bout with Carl Morris in this city—Fulton's poor exhibition in the fifth round. Morris would be a better opponent for the champion were he not so utterly devoid of even a semblance of science. A Willard-Morris bout would develop a rough and tumble scrap, in which there would be no question of the champion's ultimate triumph. A Willard-Fulton match presents some uncertainty, born of Fulton's boxing ability.

In addition to divers boxers, various individuals have come forward with offers to meet Willard. They know that it is to be for the Red Cross that organization, should it accept the offer, will handle the entire affair itself. Besides, anybody talking a million dollars even for a proposition of that magnitude cannot be taken seriously.

Graduate Managers to Gather Here Next Week.

We received word yesterday that the graduate managers of athletics at colleges the country over would meet at the Hotel Marquette here on December 27 to hold further communion on the conduct of sport in the college.

The graduate managers held a session at the hotel on the 26th of the year and had another meeting at Washington in August. At both of these sessions words were numerous, but real action was scarce.

The meeting of the managers will be part of a college sport convention here at the end of the month. On December 28 the National Basketball Rules Committee will meet here. Ralph Morgan said yesterday that the meeting had been postponed from tomorrow. On December 18, at the Federal League days, when Knabe managed the Baltimore club, he is scheduled for a role with the Cubs similar to that occupied by Kid Gleason with the White Sox.

Otto Knabe to Act as Coach for Cubs.

Otto Knabe, who has been perigrinating in baseball these many years, has landed with the Chicago Nationals for next season. Last summer Knabe was player manager of the Richmond Internationals, but with the "Bats" seemingly out of business Knabe hastened to land himself a meal ticket for the hot summer days. Weighman took a liking to Otto in the Federal League days, when Knabe managed the Baltimore club. He is scheduled for a role with the Cubs similar to that occupied by Kid Gleason with the White Sox.

A Rush Around the Circuit in Movie's Weekly.

Oward, Cal.—Fred Snodgrass, eye time Giant, is shown moving his household goods into his new home near this town. Snodgrass, seen looking on the extreme left, says he is done with baseball for all time, and Mrs. Snodgrass, seen in the extreme front, agrees with him. Snodgrass has turned down an offer of the management of the Vernon club of the Pacific Coast league, a position which he had held for several years. The enforced retirement of George Sisler, who is not shown in the film.

American Aviation Camp in France—Willis Davis of California, American clay court tennis champion, here is seen getting ready for an aeroplane flight over the German lines. Near Davis is Lieut. Richard Norris Williams 2d, famous American tennis star.

Chicago, Ill.—The gentleman seen standing in front of the lunch room is Charles Weegman, president of the Chicago Nationals. The gunny sack in his hand is supposed to contain the balance of the \$250,000 fund for the purchase of a Chicago pennant winner. It will be noted that Weegman is speaking. He is announcing that he is willing to buy Charles Herzog, Rogers Hornsby, Tris Speaker, Ty Cobb, Joe Jackson, Heinie Groh, Benny Kauff, George Sisler and everybody else in the big leagues.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The man in the fore part of this film has neither a toothache nor the rheumatism. He is Jack Hendricks, who wants to be manager of the St. Louis Nationals. At a safe distance from Hendricks is Mr. McGill, owner of the Indianapolis club, who is asking \$15,000 for Jack's release. McGill still is asking.

New Haven, Conn.—This stirring film shows the Yale formal chess team putting in some practice for the coming intercollegiate championship tournament. The film shows the full team—four men and an alternate, who is ready to jump into the fray should any regular be injured by a flying Rudy Lopez opening, etcetera.

To Draw Up Rules for Wrestling Competition.

Opinion that "Strangler" Lewis' head lock should be barred seems to be quite general in wrestling circles. The National Wrestling Association, having decided to go on against Lewis unless that infamous hold was barred Lewis yesterday consented to forego the use of the head lock in his meeting with George Manich tonight.

As a result of this uprising of the grapplers Jack Curley is to call a meeting of wrestlers, promoters and others directly interested in the game to draw up a set of rules for future competitions. It is quite likely that in addition to the head lock and the strangle, the toe hold will be barred.

A Galway Giant Said to Be Here to Beat Willard.